Amendments to the Claims:

1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method for estimating wire delay, said method comprising: formulating a distributed RC model; calculating an approximate delay based on the distributed RC model; calculating a capacitance value based on the approximate delay which has been calculated; ~~and~~ using the capacitance value in the Elmore Model to estimate the wire delay, calculating a wire delay using the Elmore Model without using a distributed RC model, and calculating clock skew error using the distributed delay which has been calculated and the wire delay which has been calculated using the Elmore Model without using a distributed RC model.

7. (Original) A method as recited in claim 6, further comprising calculating a time domain response relating to the wire.

8. (Original) A method as recited in claim 7, using the time domain response which has been calculated to calculate the approximate delay based on the distributed RC model.

9. (Original) A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the capacitance value which is calculated is a fraction of a total wire capacitance.

10-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) A method for calculating clock skew error comprising: formulating a distributed RC model; calculating an approximate delay based on the distributed RC model; calculating a capacitance value based on the approximate delay which has been calculated; using the capacitance value in the Elmore Model to estimate the wire delay; and subtracting the wire delay which has been calculated using the Elmore Model without using a distributed RC model from the distributed delay which has been calculated in order to calculate clock skew error.

13. (Original) A method as recited in claim 12, further comprising calculating a time domain response relating to the wire.

14. (Original) A method as recited in claim 13, using the time domain response which has been calculated to calculate the approximate delay based on the distributed RC model.

15. (Original) A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the capacitance value which is calculated is a fraction of a total wire capacitance.

16. (Original) A method as recited in claim 13, further comprising calculating a wire delay using the Elmore Model without using a distributed RC model.

17. (Original) A method as recited in claim 16, further comprising calculating clock skew error using the distributed delay which has been calculated and the wire delay which has been calculated using the Elmore Model without using a distributed RC model.

18. (New) A method for estimating wire delay, said method comprising: formulating a distributed RC model; calculating an approximate delay based on the distributed RC model; calculating a capacitance value based on the approximate delay which has been calculated; using the capacitance value in the Elmore Model to estimate the wire delay; calculating a wire delay without using a distributed RC model; and calculating clock skew error using the distributed delay and wire delay which have been calculated.

19. (New) A method as recited in claim 18, further comprising calculating a time domain response relating to the wire.

20. (New) A method as recited in claim 19, using the time domain response which has been calculated to calculate the approximate delay based on the distributed RC model.

21. (New) A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the capacitance value which is calculated is a fraction of a total wire capacitance.